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THE  
 NOBEL FOUNDATION  
 AND THE  
 NOBEL PRIZES.



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## THE NOBEL FOUNDATION AND THE NOBEL PRIZES.\*

## I.—INTRODUCTION.

Alfred Bernhard Nobel, the inventor of dynamite, died in 1896, leaving the residue of his great fortune, estimated at about £2,000,000 sterling, for the foundation of five annual prizes, to be awarded for the most important discoveries in Physics, Chemistry, and Physiology or Medicine, for the most remarkable literary work of an idealist tendency, and for the greatest service rendered to the cause of peace during the year. The value of each prize will be about £8,000.\*

An official French translation of the Statutes and Regulations relating to the Nobel Foundation has just been issued.† The original documents received the sanction of the King of Sweden on June 29, 1900.

The Statutes and Regulations are somewhat complicated in form. It was thought, therefore, that it would be useful to summarise and to rearrange to some extent the more important of them, and this has been done below. The Statutes and Regulations are paragraphed separately, but it has been found more convenient to give references to pages of the French text and paragraphs occurring on these pages. Where cross references are given to the pages of the present summary, the words "above" or "below" are added.

It will be seen that the text of the will has received a liberal interpretation. In addition to the prizes, provision is made for the establishment of Nobel Institutes where researches may be carried on, and of Special Funds from which grants may be given to promote the objects which the Founder had at heart; and both Institutes and Special Funds are likely, to say the least, to be quite as productive of good as the great prizes.

It will be noticed that the benefits of the Foundation are to be open to all nationalities without distinction. No restriction of sex is mentioned in the Statutes. (See p. 3, note†, below.)

Alfred Bernhard Nobel, the Founder, was born at Stockholm on October 21st, 1833. He was taken by his father to St. Petersburg in 1837, returned to Stockholm in 1859 and studied chemistry there‡. In 1862 he set up factories for the manufacture of one of the most powerful explosives known, nitro-glycerine, a liquid compound discovered in 1847, but not previously utilised. Nitro-glycerine is liable to be exploded by even a slight mechanical shock. In 1864 Nobel's own laboratory

\* See the *Times*, 1st December, 1900, p. 13.

† Fondation Nobel. Statuts et Règlements. Traduction officielle. Stockholm : L'Imprimerie Royale, P. A. Norstedt & Söner, 1900. 8vo, p. 23.

‡ According to Poggendorff's *Literarisch-biographisches Handwörterbuch* etc. (iii., p. 974), he was self-taught.



was blown up, and in 1866 serious accidents in different countries led to proposals for making its use illegal. Nobel then discovered, in the year 1867, that by mixing nitro-glycerine with certain solids in the form of powder, it could be rendered portable without danger, and detonated at will by means of a cap of mercury fulminate. The powder chiefly used has been a kind of siliceous earth called kieselguhr, but various substitutes are used in different places and for different purposes;\* the mixtures of nitro-glycerine with such solids are well known by the general name of *dynamite*. Nobel set up some twenty dynamite factories in various parts of the world, and thousands of tons are manufactured annually for military uses, for mining, for blasting rocks in the channels of harbours and other similar operations. Nobel also invented other explosives, the most famous being blasting gelatine, and a smokeless powder obtained by treating nitro-cellulose with nitro-glycerine. He also had a cannon foundry at Bofors, and made various scientific investigations on the action of explosives on the bore of cannons, on the power of explosives, and on artificial india-rubber. Nobel in 1869 set up his laboratory at Saint Sévran, near Paris; in 1891 he removed to San Remo, and died there on December 10th, 1896.

During his lifetime he gave generously to the objects in which he was interested, and subscribed half the cost of the ill-fated Andrée expedition to the North Pole.†

## II.—EXTRACT FROM THE WILL OF DR. ALFRED BERNHARD NOBEL.

The Nobel Foundation is based on the will of Dr. Alfred Bernhard Nobel, dated November 27th, 1895, of which the following passage contains the stipulations with regard to the Foundation:—"The residue of my realisable property left after my death shall be disposed of as follows: The capital, invested in safe investments by the executors of my will, shall constitute a fund of which the interest shall be distributed annually as a reward to such persons as have rendered to humanity the greatest services during the preceding year. The total amount shall be divided into five equal parts, and allotted, one [part] to the person who has made the most important discovery or invention in the physical sciences; another [part] to the person who has made the most important discovery or the greatest improvement in chemistry; the third to the author of the most important discovery in the domain of physiology or medicine; the fourth to the person who has produced the most remarkable literary work of an idealist tendency‡; and, finally,

\* Nobel gave a demonstration of the use of sand at Merstham on July 14th, 1868. See the *Times*, December 15th, 1896.

† The biographical facts here given are mainly derived from an article by M. Léon Sagniet in the *Grande Encyclopédie*.

‡ The text runs, "à celui qui aura produit l'ouvrage littéraire le plus remarquable dans le sens de l'idéalisme." It is obviously open to some difference of interpretation.

the fifth to the person who has done most, or laboured best, for the cause of fraternity among different peoples, for the suppression or reduction of standing armies, or for the formation and promotion of peace congresses.

The prizes shall be awarded as follows:—For Physics and Chemistry by the Swedish Academy of Sciences\*; for work in Physiology and Medicine by the Caroline Institute of Stockholm\*; for Literature by the Stockholm Academy\*; and, finally, for the Cause of Peace, by a Commission of five members elected by the Norwegian Storting.\* It is my express desire that in the award of the prizes no account shall be taken of nationality, so that each prize may go to the most worthy, whether he† be Scandinavian or not."

An agreement was made with certain heirs to a smaller portion of Dr. Nobel's property, by which they renounced the inheritance for themselves and their heirs, on the express condition that—

(a) The general Statutes regulating the award of the prizes by the competent authorities should be drawn up in concert with a delegate representing the Robert Nobel family, and submitted for approval to the King of Sweden.

(b) That certain permanent regulations, stated on p. 5, § 6, below, should be passed with regard to the award of the prizes.

The Statutes and Regulations relating to the Foundation as a whole, and those relating to four out of the five Sections corresponding to the five subjects for which prizes will be awarded, are summarised below. The Regulations relating to the "Peace" Section, which is under the control of the Norwegian Storting, have not yet been issued.

### III.—THE STATUTES.†

#### (1) *The General Fund.*§

1. The General Fund is to be controlled by a Council of Administration, composed of five members, of Swedish nationality, sitting at Stockholm. The president is to be nominated by the King of Sweden. The four other members are to be elected by

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\* For an account of the constitution of these bodies see pp. 12, 13 below. They are designated collectively in what follows as the "Corporate Bodies." According to the Statutes (p. 4, § 2), the term "Stockholm Academy" is intended to mean the Swedish Academy.

† No mention is made of any restriction of the prizes to persons of the male sex, although the masculine pronoun is used throughout in the French text.

‡ The Statutes may be altered hereafter, under certain conditions, by the Corporate Bodies named in the will and the Council of Administration (p. 9, § 22).

§ The term used is "la fondation." I have preferred to render it by the expression "General Fund" to correspond with the term "Special Fund" used later.



a body of fifteen representatives, chosen by the Corporate Bodies named in the will. (See 2, below.)

A deputy is also to be elected to act in the absence of the president, and two deputies are to be elected for each of the other members of the Council.

The members and deputies will be elected in future for a period of two years, the term of office beginning on May 1st (p. 7, §§ 14-16). But two of the members of the first Council, selected by lot, will retire, after a single year of office, so that in future two may retire annually. (*Dispositions Transitoires*, p. 9, 1.)

The Council will elect one of its members as "director and administrator" (*directeur-gérant*) (p. 7, § 14).

2. Of the fifteen representatives, six are to be chosen by the Academy of Sciences (for the two Sections of Physics and Chemistry), and three are to be chosen by each of the other Corporate Bodies. In addition the Academy of Sciences will nominate four deputy-representatives, and each of the other Corporate Bodies two, to act for representatives prevented from so doing.

The representatives will hold office for two years. They will elect a president from among their number. Nine representatives will form a quorum (p. 7, § 16).

In certain cases (p. 8, §§ 17-19) the representatives may be called on to control the management of the Foundation by the Council.

3. The functions of the Council include the payment of the money value of prizes to the prize winners and the payment on requisition of all expenses incurred in the award of prizes, the payment of sums due to the Nobel Institutes, and of sums required for all other purposes (p. 7, § 15).

4. One-tenth of the net annual revenue from the General Fund is to be added to the capital; and the interest on sums for prizes not awarded is also to be added to the capital till such sums have been returned to the General Fund or transferred to a Special Fund (p. 8, § 21). (See also below, pp. 7, 9, 10 and 12.)

## (2) The Nobel Prizes.

1. The prizes are to be awarded as a rule annually (p. 3, § 1). The first award of prizes in all the Sections will take place, if possible, in 1901 (*Dispositions Transitoires*, p. 9, 3).

2. For a work to be admitted to compete for a prize it must have been printed and published (p. 4, § 3).

3. In order to be admitted to the competition each work must be proposed in writing by some person or body of persons qualified to do so. Regulations defining the categories of persons qualified to propose works for the competitions are given below under the Special Regulations for the various Sections. No person may propose his own work (p. 5, § 7).

4. Each proposal must be accompanied by the written works and documents on which the proposal is based, and by a written statement in support of the proposal. The Corporate Body with whom the award of a prize lies shall be dispensed from pro-



ceeding to a detailed examination of any proposal in the following cases: (1) if the proposal or works presented are not written either in one of the Scandinavian languages or in English, French, German, or Latin; (2) if the majority of the Corporate Body in question would be required, in order to appreciate the proposed work, to acquaint themselves with a memoir written in a language of which the interpretation would entail special difficulties or considerable expense (p. 5, § 8).

5. The proposals received from the previous 1st of February to the 1st of February in each year shall be considered together (p. 5, § 7). The will prescribes that prizes shall be awarded for work done "in the preceding year," but this expression is to be taken to mean "that the object of the awards shall be [as a rule] the most recent fruit of efforts in the fields designated in the will, but [that it may be] older work in [exceptional] cases where its importance has only recently been demonstrated (p. 4, § 2).

6. If no work be regarded as deserving of a prize in any Section the amount of the prize is to be held over until the next year; if the prize be not awarded then, the money may be either returned to the General Fund by the Corporate Body concerned or invested to form a Special Fund for the Section, the income from which is to be used to promote the chief objects of the Founder, otherwise than by the award of a prize (p. 5, § 5). (See also under Special Funds, below, p. 7.) In accordance with an agreement made with certain heirs of Nobel, referred to on p. 3, above, it is stipulated, for all future time, that in each Section a prize shall be awarded at least once in each consecutive period of five years; and that the value of the prize given shall not be less than sixty per cent. (60%) of the total amount available for the prize, and that it shall not be divided into more than three prizes (pp. 3, 4, § 1). The present Statutes provide that the amount of a prize may be equally divided between two works, both being judged worthy of the prize (p. 4, § 4).

A prize may be awarded to the joint work of two or more collaborators (p. 4, § 4).

The Corporate Bodies are allowed to decide if prizes within their respective jurisdictions may, or may not, be awarded to an institution or a society (p. 4, § 4).

7. The four prizes for Physics, Chemistry, Literature, and Medicine will be awarded by the Corporate Bodies named in the will, after receiving a report in each case from a special committee, to be called a Nobel Committee, and consisting of three or five members elected by the Corporate Body concerned. The "Peace" prize will be awarded by a Commission of the Norwegian Storting in accordance with the terms of the will. Members of the Nobel Committees and of the Commission of the Storting may be of foreign nationality. In special cases the Corporate Bodies concerned may add to the Nobel Committees additional members possessing special competence.

Members of the Nobel Committees may receive a suitable remuneration for their work, to be fixed by the Corporate Body concerned (p. 5, § 6).



8. Against the decisions with regard to the award of prizes no appeal can be made.

If in the deliberations with regard to the award any difference of opinion should arise, it shall neither be mentioned in the minutes of the proceedings nor otherwise revealed in any way (p. 6, § 10).

9. A solemn assembly will be held on the 10th of December in each year, the anniversary of the death of the founder, at which the Corporate Bodies charged with the award of the prizes will publicly announce their decisions, and will present to each successful candidate an order for the amount of his prize, a diploma, and a gold medal bearing the effigy of the donor, and an appropriate inscription (p. 6, § 9).

10. Each prizeman is bound, unless he is prevented from doing so (*à moins d'empêchement*), to deliver a public lecture on the subject of the work to which the prize was awarded. The lecture in the case of the first four prizes is to be delivered at Stockholm, in the case of the "Peace" prize, at Christiania (p. 6, § 9).

### (3) The Nobel Institutes.

11. The Corporate Bodies named in the will are empowered to found scientific institutions or other establishments in order to insure the provision of competent assistance in examining works proposed for the prizes, and to further in other ways the objects of the Foundation.

Such institutions and establishments are to be called Nobel Institutes\* (p. 6, § 11).

A sum of 300,000 kronor (£16,875†) is to be allotted to each Section for the foundation of an Institute, but the whole or any portion of this may be reserved for the Special Fund of the Section (*Dispositions transitoires*, pp. 9 and 10, 4). The Institutes will receive annually one-fourth of the income from the General Fund available for each Section, less the expenses involved in the award of the prize for the Section (p. 6, § 13). [The Physico-Chemical Institute may receive, according to the Regulations p. 15, § 20, grants from the Special Funds for Physics and Chemistry.]

12. Each Nobel Institute will be placed under the direction of the Corporate Body by which it has been founded. It will, however, have an independent existence, and the funds allotted to it will be reserved entirely for the purposes of the Institute, and must not be used by the Corporate Bodies, or any other institutions, to supplement their ordinary annual expenditure. The learned officials of the Swedish Institutes in receipt of a fixed

\* As will be seen from the special Regulations given below, three such Nobel Institutes are at present contemplated: a Physico-Chemical Institute, a Literary Institute, and a Medical Institute.

† At the rate of 1s. 1½d. to the krona.



salary will not be allowed to occupy any other similar post at the same time without the express authorisation of the King of Sweden. Persons of foreign nationality, men or women, may hold posts in connection with the Institutes (p. 6, § 12).

(4.) *The Special Funds.*

13. Each Section will have a Special Fund. This will be constituted in the first instance by such a portion of the 300,000 kroner mentioned on p. 6 above as the Section may wish to reserve for this purpose, or, if no Institute be founded for the Section, of the whole amount (*Dispositions Transitoires*, pp. 9, 10, 4). If a prize have been withheld for two consecutive years, and, if three-quarters of the members of the competent body present vote for the proposal, the money will be transferred to the Special Fund for the Section; such amounts will otherwise be returned to the General Fund (p. 5, § 5).

The income from the Special Funds is to be used to promote the chief objects of the Founder in some way other than by the award of prizes. [For details of the Special Funds in the different Sections see below.]

IV.—SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE SECTIONS OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY.

*The Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry.*

The Corporate Body for these Sections is the Swedish Academy of Sciences.

1. The following persons are to be entitled to nominate competitors for the prizes, in accordance with the Statutes (p. 11, § 1; see also p. 4 (2), 3, above):

- (i.) Swedish and foreign members of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (referred to hereafter as "the Academy").
- (ii.) Members of the Nobel Committees for Physics and Chemistry.
- (iii.) Persons who have received a Nobel prize from the Academy.
- (iv.) The ordinary and extraordinary professors in physical and chemical science at the Universities of Upsala, Lund, Christiania, Copenhagen, and Helsingfors, the Caroline Institute of Medicine and Surgery of Stockholm, the Royal Higher Technical School of Stockholm, and the professors of the same sciences occupying permanent posts at the *Ecole Supérieure* of Stockholm (*Stockholms Högskola*).\*

\* This institution, although it does not bear the name of University, is of University rank.

(v.) The occupants of similar chairs in, at least, six Universities, or places of higher education (*Ecoles Supérieures*) to be chosen by the Academy, so as to distribute the mandate suitably among different countries and their universities.

(vi.) Such persons as the Academy may see fit to invite to act (p. 11, § 1).

2. The Nobel Committees for Physics and Chemistry shall each consist of five members, in accordance with the Statutes, four being chosen by the Academy, and the fifth being the director of the corresponding section of the Nobel Physico-Chemical Institute. The members other than the director shall hold office in general for four years; one member shall retire each year, but shall be re-eligible (p. 11, § 2).

The four members of the first committee elected will, in each case, retire successively at the end of 1901, 1902, 1903, and 1904, the selection of the retiring members being determined by lot. (*Dispositions Transitoires*, p. 15, 16.)

If any member leave a Committee another member shall be elected for the unexpired term of office (p. 11, § 2).

3. The Nobel Committees shall in the month of September issue invitations to all persons qualified under paragraph 1 above to send in, before the 1st of February of the following year, proposals for prizes, with a statement of the grounds on which the proposals are made (p. 12, § 6).

Each of the Nobel Committees shall report to the Academy before the end of September in each year; the corresponding sections of the Academy (together with any additional member of the Academy, if the section think necessary) shall report to the Academy during the month of October; and the Academy shall come to a final decision before the middle of November (p. 12, § 7).

No documents, reports, or proposals of the Nobel Committees with regard to the award of prizes shall be published or revealed in any manner (p. 12, § 8).

#### *The Nobel Physico-Chemical Institute.*

4. The Academy is empowered to found, in virtue of the Statutes, a Physico-Chemical Institute of which the immediate purpose shall be to control discoveries in Chemistry and Physics proposed for Nobel Prizes. The Institute, so far as its resources allow, will also encourage researches in the domain of physical and chemical science from which important results may be expected (p. 13, § 12).

The Institute shall contain two sections—one for Physics and one for Chemistry. The buildings for the two sections shall adjoin one another, and there shall be for common use, a council-chamber for the Nobel Committees, muniment room, library, etc. (p. 13, § 13).

The Institute is placed under the supervision of an inspector nominated by the King of Sweden (p. 14, § 14). Each of the



two sections is to be under the charge of a director, Swedish or foreign, chosen by the Academy on the proposal of the corresponding section of the Academy; the director is to be a man of reputation [*qui s'est acquis une réputation solide*] and possessing a wide knowledge of the science concerned. He will have the title of professor (p. 14, § 14).

*The Special Funds for Physics and Chemistry.*

5. The income from the Special Funds (see p. 7 above, § 13), may be devoted to one of two purposes:—

- (i.) It may be used, firstly, by the Academy, in accordance with the chief objects of the Founder, to make grants for work in Physics and Chemistry, which appear to be of scientific or practical value. Such grants shall be made in preference to persons whose work has already yielded results deserving to be completed with the help of the Nobel Foundation. Proposals for subventions shall be made in the first instance by the Nobel Committee concerned, and submitted to the Academy, reported on by its corresponding section, and finally decided on by the Academy as a whole.
- (ii.) The income may be used, secondly, for the purposes of the Physico-Chemical Nobel Institute (p. 15, § 20).

V.—SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE SECTION OF LITERATURE.\*

1. The Corporate Body for the Section is the Swedish Academy.

According to the Statutes (p. 4, § 2) the term "literature" in the will is intended to apply not only to purely literary works, but to all other works possessing from their form and style literary value.

*The Nobel Prize in Literature.*

2. The following institutions and persons are to be entitled to nominate competitors for the prizes, in accordance with the statutes (p. 17, § 1 of the original; see also p. 4 (2), 3, above).

- (i.) Members of the Swedish Academy (referred to hereafter as "the Academy") and members of the French Academy and the Spanish Academy, which resemble this Academy in their organisation and aims.
- (ii.) Members of the literary sections of other academies, and members of literary societies similar to academies.†
- (iii.) University professors of Aesthetics, Literature, and History.

\* The Special Regulations published contain no details with regard to the election and functions of the Nobel Committee, or the award of the prize such as are furnished for the Sections of Physics, Chemistry, and Medicine.

† It will be somewhat difficult to determine what institutions in the United Kingdom, and the British Empire generally, come under this category.

This regulation is to be published at least once every five years in an official journal or in one of the newspapers most widely read in the three Scandinavian countries and the principal countries of the civilised world (p. 17, §1).

*The Nobel Literary Institute.*

3. The Institute will include an important library devoted chiefly to modern literature. The Academy will nominate a librarian with one or more assistant librarians, and also a number of qualified literary assistants, titular and supernumerary, whose duty it will be to draw up reports on questions relating to the prize, and on recent foreign literature, and to execute such translations of foreign works as may be required.

The Institute will be placed under the supervision of an inspector nominated by the King of Sweden, and under the immediate direction of one of the members of the Academy, nominated specially by this body (p. 17, § 2.)

*The Special Fund for Literature.*

4. The Academy has power to use the Special Fund to encourage, in accordance with the chief objects of the Founder, all literary activity, in Sweden and abroad, of such kind as may be regarded as of importance to civilisation, especially in the intellectual domain to which it is the duty of the Academy to devote its attention and care. (See p. 12, below.)

VI.—SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE SECTION OF MEDICINE.\*

1. The Corporate Body for the Section is the Caroline Institute of Medicine and Surgery.†

*The Nobel Prize in Medicine.*

2. The following persons are to be entitled to nominate competitors for prizes in accordance with the Statutes (p. 20, § 5; see also p. 4, (2), 3 above).

- (i.) Members of the College of Professors of the Caroline Institute (referred to hereafter as "the College of Professors").
- (ii.) Members of the Section of Medicine of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.
- (iii.) Persons who have received the Nobel Prize for Medicine.
- (iv.) Members of the Faculties of Medicine of the Universities of Upsala, Lund, Christiania, Copenhagen, and Helsingfors.
- (v.) Members of at least six Faculties of Medicine, chosen by the College of Professors, so as to distribute the

\* The term "Medicine" used alone in the Special Regulations is obviously intended here to include Physiology, in accordance with the terms of the will (see p. 2, above).

† See p. 13.



mandate suitably among different countries and their universities.

- (vi.) Such persons as the College of Professors\* may see fit to invite to act.

3. The Nobel Committee shall consist of—

- (a) Three members elected by the College of Professors to serve for a period of three years, one member retiring each year,† of whom one is to be selected by the College of Professors as president, and a second as vice-president,
- (b) Two members elected by the College of Professors in March (after they have received a preliminary report on the prize competition), to serve till the end of the civil year.

Specialists may also be added to the Committee by the College of Professors, if they see fit (p. 19, § 2, and p. 20, § 6).

4. The Nobel Committee shall in the month of September, issue invitations to all persons qualified (under § 2, above) to send in before the 1st of February of the following year proposals for prizes, with statements of the grounds on which the proposals are made (p. 19, § 4).

The Nobel Committee shall classify the memoirs received from the previous 1st of February to the 1st of February in each year, and shall submit them with a memorandum to the College of Professors in the first half of February. The College of Professors shall elect in the first half of March the two members of the Nobel Committee mentioned under § 3 (b) above, together with one or more specialists, if necessary, to serve as supplementary members on the Committee.

The Nobel Committee shall then decide which of the memoirs presented shall be submitted to a special examination, and arrange for this examination. The Nobel Committee shall then report to the College of Professors in April, and the College shall decide at the first meeting in May, if further memoirs are to be submitted to special examination. No memoir shall receive the prize unless it shall have been specially examined. The Nobel Committee shall deliver its final report and proposal for the award of the prize in September, and the College of Professors shall make the award in October (p. 20, §§ 6-9).

*The Nobel Medical Institute.*

5. The Nobel Medical Institute will be founded and organised in accordance with the decisions of the College of

\* The text here uses the word *Académie*, instead of *Collège de Professeurs*, but this is obviously a slip.

† Of the members of the Committee first elected, two will be selected by lot to retire after serving for one year, and two years, respectively.—(*Dispositions Transitoires*, p. 22).

Professors, as soon as the College regards the funds at its disposal for the purpose as sufficient. It will be placed under the supervision of the Chancellor of the Universities of Sweden.

Before the Institute is opened for active work, detailed regulations with regard to it will be submitted to the approval of the King of Sweden (p. 21, § 12).

*The Special Fund for Medicine.*

6. The income from this fund is to be used, in accordance with the chief objects of the Founder, to encourage medical research and its applications, otherwise than by the award of prizes.

The disposal of the income will rest with the College of Professors (p. 22, §§ 13, 14).

VII.—THE CORPORATE BODIES MENTIONED IN THE WILL OF THE FOUNDER.\*

The Royal Academy of Sciences (*Kongl. Vetenskaps Akademien*) of Stockholm was founded in 1739. Its present statutes bear the date July 13th, 1850. Its object is to encourage the sciences, to aid in their development, and to spread scientific knowledge by means of printed publications.

The King of Sweden is the patron of the Academy, which includes 100 Swedish and Norwegian, and 75 foreign members. The national members are divided into nine sections, as follows:—

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| I. Pure Mathematics.                  | VII. The Medical Sciences.                             |
| II. Applied Mathematics.              | VIII. Technology, Economics, and Statistics.           |
| III. Applied Mechanics.               | IX. The Sciences and Scientific Professions generally. |
| IV. Physical Sciences.                |  |
| V. Chemistry, Geology and Mineralogy. |  |
| VI. Botany and Zoology.               |  |

The president of the Academy is elected annually and there are several other officers, including a perpetual secretary, whose especial business it is to manage the affairs of the Academy.

The Swedish Academy (*Svenska Akademien*) of Stockholm was founded on March 20th, 1786, by Gustavus III., and at the same time received its statutes, which are still in force. It is devoted to literature, including both prose and poetry; and the chief object of the Academy is to labour for the purity, the vigour, and the elevation of the Swedish language, in scientific works, and especially in the various branches of poetry and prose, including those which serve for the interpretation of religious

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\* The accounts given here of the first three bodies mentioned are translated from the "Notice" printed at the end of the Statutes and Regulations in the French text.



truths.\* It is the duty of the Academy to compile a dictionary and a grammar of the Swedish language, and to publish treatises tending to strengthen and develop literary taste (*le bon goût*). The Academy awards annual prizes for competitions in prose and poetry. The King is the patron of the Academy. The Academy includes eighteen members, who must be of Swedish nationality. The officers include a director, a chancellor, and a perpetual secretary.

The Royal Caroline Institute of Medicine and Surgery (*Kongl. Karolinska Medico-Kirurgiska Institutet*) of Stockholm, dates from the year 1815. The statutes at present in force received the sanction of the King of Sweden on April 29th, 1886. The Academy corresponds to a Faculty of Medicine, and has the same powers as the Faculties of Medicine in the Universities of Upsala and Lund. The Institute carries on the theoretical and practical teaching of the medical sciences, and awards diplomas to medical students by examination.

The direction and administration of the Institute are in the hands of a Rector, elected by the College of Professors from among the members. The present number of Professors is thirty-three.

The Norwegian Storting is the Legislative Assembly of Norway. It is elected indirectly by universal suffrage triennially. It consists of 114 members.

P. J. HARTOG.

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\* The text of the official French translation is as follows:—"Elle a pour mission principale de travailler pour la pureté, la force, et l'élévation de la langue suédoise, tant dans les travaux scientifiques que particulièrement dans la poésie et l'éloquence dans toutes ses parties, aussi dans celles qui servent à l'interprétation des vérités religieuses."

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## THE NOBEL FOUNDATION AND THE NOBEL PRIZES.

## APPENDIX.

PROVISIONAL SPECIAL REGULATIONS FOR THE "PEACE"  
SECTION.\*

The following provisional special regulations have been issued by the Commission of five members elected by the Norwegian Storting†, with regard to the Nobel Prize to be awarded to "the person who has done most or laboured best for the cause of fraternity among different peoples, for the suppression or reduction of standing armies, or for the formation and promotion of peace congresses."

1. The following persons are to be entitled to nominate competitors for prizes in accordance with the Statutes (p. 5, § 7):

- (i.) Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.
- (ii.) Members of the legislative assemblies, and governments of the various States [of the world].
- (iii.) Members of the *Conseil interparlementaire*.‡
- (iv.) Members of the *Commission du bureau international permanent de la paix*.
- (v.) Members and Associates of the *Institut de Droit international*.
- (vi.) University professors of law, of political science, of history, and of philosophy.
- (vii.) Persons and associations who have already received the Nobel "Peace" prize.

2. Proposals for prizes must be sent in to the

Comité Nobel Norvégien,  
Victoria Terrasse, 3,  
Christiania, Norway.

\* These regulations were not received from the Norwegian Government until after the foregoing pages were printed. References, except where followed by the word "above," are to the pages and sections of the official French translation of the Regulations and Statutes of the Nobel Foundation. See p. 1 above.

† MM. B. Getz, Steen, John Lund, Björnstjerne Björnson, and J. Lövland.

‡ The Council of the Interparliamentary Union, composed of a number of groups of members of various legislative assemblies "in favour of peace."

As a rule, proposals from the previous 1st of February to the 1st of February in each year will be considered together, for the award of the year.

*Proposals for the prize for 1901 may, however, be sent in so as to reach the Committee not later than the 1st of April 1901.*

3. The Norwegian Nobel Committee, in accordance with the Statutes (p. 4, § 4), has decided that institutions and societies shall be eligible for the "Peace" prize.

For the general regulations relating to the Nobel prizes, see pp. 4-6 above.

P. J. H.